

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 17 May 1990

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Employment and unemployment both rise in April

Labour force estimates for April 1990 show increases in employment, unemployment and in the labour force participation rate compared with March 1990.

Total employment seasonally adjusted increased by 44,100 to 7,861,000; the underlying trend in employed persons has steadied in recent months. Features of the April seasonally adjusted rise were:

- ☐ Male employment increased by 23,300 to 4,620,700
- ☐ Males employed full-time rose by 16,900
- ☐ Female employment rose by 20,700 to 3,240,200
- ☐ Female part-time employment rose by 25,000.

The unemployment rate increased from 6.1 per cent to 6.2 per cent. The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for April 1990 rose by 10,500 to 520,400. Male unemployment increased by 15,600 to 303,200 while female unemployment fell by 5,200 to 217,200.

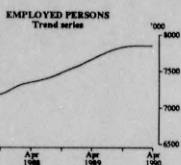
With increases in employment and unemployment, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 63.4 per cent (seasonally adjusted). The male participation rate rose by 0.5 percentage points to 75.5 per cent. The female participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 51.7 per cent.

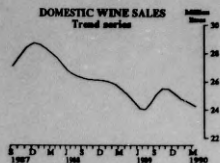
LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Participa- tion rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —			
1990 —						
January	6,214.4	1,648.2	7,862.6	514.4	6.1	63.6
February	6,198.4	1,656.9	7,855.3	542.0	6.5	63.7
March	6,184.1	1,632.9	7,816.9	510.0	6.1	63.1
April	6,196.6	1,664.4	7,861.0	520.4	6.2	63.4

The total labour force (employed and unemployed) stood at 8,381,400 in April, up 54,500 on the previous month.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia*, Preliminary (6202.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.





Wine sales continue to fall

The ABS trend estimate for domestic sales of Australian wines by winemakers declined by 1.1 per cent in March 1990, continuing a five month downward slide. As shown in the chart, this continues a long-term decline in domestic wine sales which has been evident since late 1987.

Original and seasonally adjusted wine sales figures have exhibited considerable irregular movements over the past nine months. In particular, strong sales in December 1989 and March 1990 have been offset by unusually low sales in January and February 1990.

The table below gives a breakdown of domestic sales in the nine months to March 1990 which, in total, were 3.6 per cent down on sales in the same period a year ago.

DOMESTIC SALES OF AUSTRALIAN WINE BY WINEMAKERS

Wine type	Nine months ended March 1990 ('000 litres)	Percentage change from corresponding period of previous year
Table	176,981	-4.5
Fortified	24,532	1.2
Sparkling	26,511	-1.5
Other	4,910	-3.9
Total wine sales	232,934	-3.6

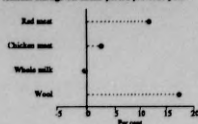
Export sales are also in decline. Compared with the corresponding period in the previous year, export sales for the eight months to February 1990 fell 22 per cent in volume and 13 per cent in value. (During these 8 months, exports accounted for about 9 per cent of total sales of Australian wine in volume terms.)

Wine imports grew strongly in the same period, and the excess of exports over imports fell from \$44 million in the eight months to February 1989 to \$26 million in the corresponding eight months one year later.

Declining domestic sales and exports of Australian winemakers have coincided with expected near-record levels of wine grape production in the 1990 harvest. These factors are expected to cause significant increases in winemakers' stocks of wine and downward pressure on prices for Australian wine and wine grapes during 1990 and 1991.

For further information, order the publication *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers* (8504.0), or contact Robert Johns on (08) 237 7621.

PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS
Nine months ended March 1990
Annual change on same period previous year



Livestock slaughterings increase

Slaughterings in all livestock categories increased in March 1990, with total red meat production up 10 per cent over February.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, MARCH 1990
Percentage change

		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cattle and calves slaughtered	Number	13.2	22.2
Sheep and lambs slaughtered	Number	3.8	24.9
Pigs slaughtered	Number	14.3	1.5
Total red meat production	Tonnes	10.0	21.6
Chickens slaughtered	Number	-1.6	7.2
Chicken meat produced	Tonnes	1.2	8.1
Taxable wool receivals	Tonnes	7.2	13.8

Comparing the nine months ending March 1990 with the same period in the previous year, cattle slaughtering rose by 11.2 per cent, calves by 0.7 per cent, sheep by 24.6 per cent and lambs by 3.7 per cent. Slaughtering of pigs in this period declined by 2.6 per cent.

As a result, the quantity of total red meat produced in the nine months to March increased by 11.9 per cent. Chickens slaughtered and poultry meat produced have also increased in this period.

Although sheep slaughterings have increased sharply, the amount of wool received by brokers and dealers continues to increase compared with the previous year, showing a 17.4 per cent increase for the nine months ending March.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Bronwyn Brown on (06) 252 5337.

Road deaths — record low figures continue

Road accident deaths in Australia continue at a record low level. The 164 deaths recorded in April equalled the February 1990 record for the lowest number of road fatalities since the series began in 1970.

Despite the Easter holiday period falling in April this year — as against March last year — deaths this April showed a 12.8 per cent decrease on those in April last year, and a 26.5 per cent drop from March this year.

In the year to date, 159 fewer persons (18%) have been killed on Australian roads than for the same period last year (see table on following page). It is the lowest number of deaths for any four month period since the series began.

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Four months ended April



PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Four months ended April 1990

	<i>Number of fatalities</i>	<i>Percentage change from corresponding four months in 1989</i>
New South Wales	247	-7
Victoria	182	-35
Queensland	110	-8
South Australia	67	-17
Western Australia	63	-11
Tasmania	30	-12
Northern Territory	22	29
Australian Capital Territory	3	-80
<i>Australia</i>	<i>724</i>	<i>-18</i>

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)*, or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

Agricultural data at regional level

Data from the 1988-89 Agricultural Census have now been included in the electronic data service *AgStats*.

Available from *AgStats* is the complete set of Agricultural Census commodity data for small areas. Over 1,300 individual regions, covering all Australia, can be cross referenced with any of more than 800 data items. Examples of the detailed information available are:

- ☐ area of wheat planted
- ☐ amount of superphosphate used
- ☐ number of fruit trees
- ☐ livestock numbers
- ☐ amount of wool produced
- ☐ number of establishments reporting each item.

The *AgStats* (formerly ADDS) suite of products is available in a variety of formats including microfiche, floppy disk, magnetic tape, and CD-ROM. The floppy disk version of the data comes complete with a PC-based, easy to use retrieval package that enables electronic transfer of the data to other PC packages, automatic aggregation of region level data, and sorting of the output.

For further information, contact Penny Cooke on (06) 252 5300 or any State office.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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All the week's releases: 9 to 15 May

General

Statistics Weekly, 10 May 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, NSW, April 1990 (1307.1; \$3.30)
Economic Indicators, Vic., April 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)
Queensland Pocket Year Book, 1990 (1302.3; \$8.50)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., February 1990 (3401.0; \$5.00)

Social statistics

Victorian Social Survey, May 1989, Preliminary (4116.2; \$3.50) — *new issue*
Summary of Social Statistics, Qld, 1989 (4101.3; \$10.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, 1988–89 (5204.0; \$17.50)
Exports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, February 1990 (5432.0; \$8.00)
Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, March 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)
Foreign Trade, Aust., Exports, 1988–89 (5436.0; \$36.50)
Lease Finance, Aust., February 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., April 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (6248.0; \$12.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, April 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance (Persons aged 15 to 24), Aust., September 1989 (6272.0; \$8.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, March 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)
Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, SA, 1988–89 (7411.4; \$12.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Energy Products, Aust., February 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, March 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, December Qtr 1989 (8635.1; \$8.60)
Building Approvals, NSW, March 1990 (8731.1; \$8.60)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., February 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)
Intrastate Travel by Qld Households, October 1989 (8637.3; \$10.00) — *new issue*
Building Activity, Qld, December Qtr 1989 (8752.3; \$8.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, December Qtr 1989 (8741.4; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., March 1990 (8731.6; \$8.50)

Transport

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., April 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

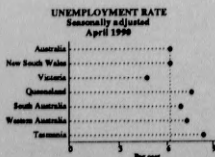
Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 29 May 1990

- 17** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, February 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- 23** Retail Trade, Australia, March 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 24** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, March 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- 25** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, March 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, March 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 28** Export Price Index, Australia, March 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 29** Balance of Payments, Australia, April 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, March Qtr 1990 Survey, Preliminary, (5625.0; \$3.50)
Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Australia, April 1990 (8219.0; \$7.50)
Production Statistics, Australia, April 1990, Preliminary, (8301.0; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, April 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 15 May 1990



Statistics Weekly
17 May 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Feb. 90) (trend estimate)	8.1	7.9	9.6	4.7	6.2	7.1	n.a.	8.0	7.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Mar. 90)*	7.4	29.5	3.0	6.8	-8.3	n.a.	-4.6	29.1	11.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Mar. 90)	-19.4	-15.6	-22.4	18.9	-37.9	4.3	-42.6	-36.9	-20.0
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (April 90)*	1.6	3.6	4.9	1.6	1.9	6.5	-11.5	3.9	2.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	7.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Sept. 89)	0.9	1.2	3.2	1.0	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.7	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 15 May 1990

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	98,703	91,531	0.9	10.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"		69,796	64,190	-0.2	4.2
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	7,807	7,148	-2.9	4.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"		5,903	5,420	-4.6	-0.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to June 90	14,967	n.a.	n.a.	5.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Feb. 90	6,174	7,015	0.7	8.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	16,697	14,831	0.2	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Mar. 90	62,172	57,566	8.8	11.7
Dwelling unit approvals		"	"	12,315	11,937	-0.1	-25.1
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,090	1,976	-17.6	-27.3
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	-0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,248	5,010	-2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Dec. qtr 89	37,329	35,539	3.1	9.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to June 90	71,716	n.a.	n.a.	9.7
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Apr. 90	7,894.2	7,861.0	0.6	2.7
Unemployment rate †		%	"	6.3	6.2	0.1	0.1
Participation rate †		"	"	63.8	63.4	0.3	0.6
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Feb. 90	120.8	n.a.	1.3	8.6
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		Feb. 90	562.5	n.a.	0.5	6.3
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Dec. qtr 89	5,575	4,523	-1.0	15.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)		\$	Nov. 89	516.60	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Mar. 90	15.45	n.a.	-0.8	-2.1
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	"	13.45	n.a.	0.2	-0.2
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Mar. 90	3,847	3,911	-4.6	14.9
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,254	4,434	9.6	12.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-407	-523	n.a.	0.9
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-730	-916	-214.8	-9.0
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,796	-1,923	-53.3	-7.0
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 89	n.a.	108.4	0.6	1.7
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Dec. 89	117,399	n.a.	3.3	18.2
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	160,444	n.a.	3.4	20.7
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$/US	per \$A		Mar. 90	0.7558	n.a.	-0.5	-7.4
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.5	n.a.	1.5	-3.1
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	'000	Sept. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors		"	Feb. 90	193	176	-4.3	0.3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 17 May 1990.
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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